



# BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member  
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**For Immediate Response**

**June 9, 2009**

## **Budget Committee Ranking Members Gregg and Ryan React to Obama Pay-Go Initiative**

Senate and House Budget Committee ranking members Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Paul Ryan (R-WI) today reacted to President Obama's announcement that he plans to submit to Congress legislation that will enact the Pay-as-You-Go rule (Pay-Go) into law.

"It is somewhat ironic that the Democratic Congress, which has enacted legislation that swept \$883 billion of Pay-Go violations under the rug over the past several years, is now championing turning Pay-Go into law," said Senator Gregg. "Waving the Pay-Go banner has served as convenient political cover for the majority as it exploits loopholes and continues its big-government spending ways. Despite today's press conference, I do not expect that dynamic to change significantly, especially since the President's budget passed by the Democratic Congress dramatically explodes the size of government.

"According to the Democrats' budget, the trillions in new spending are not offset by any real spending cuts; instead, taxes will be raised and the rest will be borrowed from our children and grandchildren. Public announcements of fiscal responsibility should be weighed against the fact that Pay-Go has been turned into a fraudulent exercise by the majority party."

"Two years ago, the new Democratic Congress hailed their Pay-Go rule as 'the end of deficit spending,' said Congressman Ryan. "Since then, Pay-Go has been waived, gamed, ignored, or employed to justify billions of dollars in tax hikes to chase an historic explosion of spending. And we've seen deficits and debt soar to historic levels. By any reasonable measure, the majority's Pay-Go has been a failure.

"To be clear, I appreciate any real effort by the Administration and Congress to get a grip on our nation's mounting fiscal crisis. But simply making an impotent Pay-Go rule into an equally impotent Pay-Go law doesn't help. We need to take real, immediate action to get spending and deficits under control. I'm concerned that the President's announcement today will at best serve as temporary cover for putting off real fiscal reform, and at worst lead to huge tax increases."